

REMARKS OF AMBASSADOR BOTHA OF SOUTH AFRICA FOLLOWING HIS
MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1976

QUESTION: Mr. Ambassador, we'd like to know how the talks went today?

AMBASSADOR BOTHA: I think I was [inaudible] -- I don't really have to say. May I just take a quick look and see whether I have anything to say.

I am really hesitate to make [inaudible] beyond saying just the usual, that by now there have been quite a number of meetings -- first between my Prime Minister and Dr. Kissinger and subsequently between myself and Dr. Kissinger, and between myself and senior members of the State Department -- on the issues involving southern Africa. This was a further meeting on these issues, in furtherance of the discussions that started between my Prime Minister and Dr. Kissinger in Germany. I cannot say so definitely, but it might be possible perhaps, despite the severe problems involved and the many problems that will remain to be solved -- it might just be possible that my Government may in the foreseeable future perhaps make its views known on at least some of the important aspects.

QUESTION: Has there been a breakthrough in Namibia -- in the negotiations on Namibia?

AMBASSADOR BOTHA: I think I have now said what I -- I didn't intend to say it; I would not have said it, but --

QUESTION: Tell us this. It's very important, really, because the Foreign Minister for Zaire was here today and he told us before he left that South Africa was outraging the world community and the countries of Africa because it was not responding to the UN motion or resolution for Africa to come up with proposals regarding Namibia at the end of the month. Is there any prospect that you will come up with proposals to meet the UN request?

AMBASSADOR BOTHA: Well, this is one of the areas that form the subject of discussions between Dr. Kissinger and my Prime Minister, and as I said to you it is just possible within the very near future -- if not the next few days -- it is just possible that my Government or a spokesman for my Government might make its views known on some of the major issues. I find myself in a position of not being able to go beyond that far.